

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/364,315
Attorney Docket No. A8491 / ST9-99-078

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with an Appeal Brief. In response to Applicant's Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on October 20, 2003, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action dated November 10, 2003, wherein the rejections of claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-22, 24-33, 36-40 and 43-55 are maintained. Additionally, in the Advisory Action, claims 3, 13, 23, 34-35 and 41-42 are acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter.

Consequently, Applicant rewrites claims 3, 13, 23, 34 and 41 in independent form, thereby placing claims 3, 13, 23, 34-35 and 41-42 in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter this Amendment because the claim amendments will narrow the issues on appeal.

Rejected claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-22, 24-33, 36-40 and 43-55 are addressed in the aforementioned Appeal Brief.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Carter Raulerson
Registration No. 52,156

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 16, 2004